

Docket No.: 046080-0033



PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
Nobuhiro MISHIMA, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 6059
Application No.: 09/585,339	:	Tech Center Art Unit: 2624
Filed: June 02, 2000	:	Examiner: James A. Thompson

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, POWER SUPPLY APPARATUS, AND METHOD OF SUPPLYING POWER

TRANSMITTAL OF REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is Appellant's Reply Brief in support of the Notice of Appeal filed February 21, 2006. To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 41.20, and in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 8, 2006

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as our correspondence address.**



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REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Reply Brief
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

The following arguments are in reply to the Examiners Answer dated July 10, 2006. In each of the rejections, the Examiner has relied upon the Stephenson (U.S. Patent No. 5,757, 388). The Examiner's application of the teachings of Stephenson to the claims on appeal is misplaced.

The Examiner asserts that printer electronics **30** in Stephenson is both the claimed detecting unit and interface controller. The reference fails to disclose with any particularity what functions the printer electronics **30** provides. Therefore, it is unclear on what basis the Examiner finds that the printer electronics provides both detecting and interface controller functions. The Examiner also asserts that the detecting unit comprises elements **24** and **26** of Stevenson. Both of these elements are separate and distinct from the printer electronics **30**. Accordingly, the

rejection is unclear because Examiner is designating printer electronics 30 and the combined elements 24 and 26 for the claimed detecting unit.

Stephenson does not disclose printer electronics 30 as having a connector to receive a plug from a cable let alone an interface controller connected to a connector and outputting a first or second signal. The Examiner finds that element 24 as being configured to receive a plug. Element 24 is a plug, and is not configured to receive a plug. Fig. 1 of Stephenson shows that the element is a shaft having a hook or latch shape at the end, which is received in element 20. Independent claims 1, 2, 8 and 11 require that the connector be configured to “receive a plug.” Element 24 does not have the configuration as required by the independent claims.

The Examiner further finds that element 26 in Stephenson as being an interface controller. The element is described by Stephenson as being a latch driver. There is no disclosure by Stephenson that the latch driver outputs any signal as required by independent claims 1, 2, 8 and 11. The latch driver responds to a signal from the printer electronics 30 to permit removal of ink jet printer 12 from camera body 18 (Stephenson at 4:19-21).

The Examiner argues that the two separate signals from the interface controller which he assigns as element 26 of Stephenson are inherently present. Clearly, Stephenson does not disclose or suggest that element 26 outputs any signal. Moreover, the Examiner has not presented any cogent reasoning based on the Stephenson disclosure to show or suggest that output signals emanate from element 26.

Independent claims 1, 2, 8 and 11 further require that a control unit control the printing unit in response to a first signal output by the interface controller. As discussed *supra*, the

interface controller identified by the Examiner does not output any signal. The Examiner assigns printer interface 30 as being the control unit for controlling the printer. However, the signal to the printer interface 30 does not come from element 26 (the interface controller assigned by the Examiner), but from the camera electronics 16 (Stephenson at 3:26-28). There is no disclosure in Stephenson that element 26 outputs a signal to the printer electronics 30, which the examiner assigns as being the control unit. In addition, as pointed out in the Appeal Brief, Stephenson's electronic camera and integral printer requires an operator signal, and not signals from an interface controller as required by independent claims 1, 2, 8 and 11.

Independent claims 15, 20, 22 and 23 require a power supply unit, an interface that supplies power to an external device transmitting image data and that receives image data and transmits the data to the printer, and a control unit that controls power and a printer unit. The Examiner relies on Stephenson in each of the rejections for features that are not claimed. Further, the Examiner admits, *inter alia*, that Stephenson does not disclose or suggest a power unit or that the power unit supplies power to the external device, or that the power is supplied to the external source or printer through an interface or a control unit that controls the power and the printer. For these deficiencies, the Examiner relies on Amoni.

Amoni is not directed to an electronic camera and intergral ink jet printer, but to a computer system for switching to supply various voltages and power levels to a peripheral device. Amoni is directed to a USB hub, an interface between the power supply, computer and a peripheral such as a printer. The Examiner finds motivation to combine Stephenson and Amoni

in order “to provide both power and data transmission in an efficient manner that does not require separate electrical power connections for each device.” Appellant disagrees.

Stephenson does not disclose a power unit. Even if it is inherent that such a unit is required, Stephenson does not disclose or suggest a control unit that controls power to the printer or using an interface to control power and data to the camera or the printer and data from the camera to the printer. Further, the motivation to modify Stephenson’s apparatus could only come from Appellant’s disclosure. Stephenson discloses that data from camera display 18 is transmitted to printer electronics 30 by printer receiver sensor device 32 (Stephenson at 3:26-28 and 42-64). A person having ordinary skill in the art reading Amoni would not have been led to use USB interface and modify Stephenson as suggested by the Examiner.

Stephenson discloses that the ink jet printer 12 can be decoupled from the camera and can be used as a separate accessory from the camera 10. According to Stephenson, the printer and camera would be “connected by wiring.” (Stephenson at 3:14-16). However, Stephenson does not disclose or suggest how the printer and the camera would be wired. It does not disclose a power supply. Even if the power is inherent, there is no suggestion in Amoni of using an interface to direct power to external devices and a separate controller to control power to a printer. This teaching could only have come from Appellant’s disclosure.

Independent claims 15, 20, 22 and 23 further require a judging unit for determining whether a charge should be collected and a charge collecting unit. Kawai et al. disclose an invention that relates to an apparatus for automatically taking identification photographs when a fee is provided to the apparatus, and includes a camera, a printing unit, and a power supply. The apparatus

receives the fee when it is to provide a photograph to a user, and that fee covers a charge for printing and a charge for power for operating the necessary components. In other words, the charge for power supplied to the camera is incorporated in the fee. This is because business would not be viable if this charge was not incorporated.

In contrast, as recited in the claims of the present application, the present invention collects the charge for power and the charge for printing separately. To be precise, the present invention collects the charge for power supplied to the camera and the charge for printing separately. This feature is not taught or suggested by Kawai et al.

In addition, the present invention collects a charge corresponding to the amount of power used by the camera, whereas the charge collected by the apparatus of Kawai et al. is unrelated to the amount of power used by the camera only.

Claims 20 and 23 require a "charge for an amount of the power that has been supplied to the external device." This feature is not taught or suggested by Kawai et al. For example, if the external device is a camera and its battery is in a fully charged state, a charge for power used by the camera is not collected because the camera does not use any of the power.

The invention of Kawai et al. always collects both a charge for electricity necessary to maintain the apparatus and a charge for printing. This is not what is claimed in the present application. Kawai et al. do not disclose or suggest separate charges for power supplied to different external devices such as a camera or printer.

Application No. 09/585,339

For all of the foregoing reasons as well as those set forth in the Appeal Brief, it is respectfully requested that the decision of the Examiner be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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